

Office of River Protection Policy on Environment, Safety, Health and Quality (ESH&Q) A Work and Safety Revolution

Our Commitment:

The safe achievement of ORP's mission is critical to this community and the nation. Over the coming months, ORP will revolutionize how this mission is accomplished. We will both double our productivity while achieving excellence in Environmental protection, Safety, Health, and Quality ESH&Q. To make this happen, we will break the paradigm that excellence in ESH&Q slows work progress. We will, in fact, show that excellence in ESH&Q enhances productivity. ORP will be engaged in a new way of doing business, in short, a "Work and Safety Revolution."

To achieve this end, ESH&Q and project performance will be integrated, and focused on the goal of accelerated project progress done in a safe, quality, and environmentally sound manner. We will apply our Integrated Environment, Safety, and Health Management System (ISMS) and Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) tools in this effort. Our DOE and contractor workforce will be fully involved, engaged and partnered with the accomplishment of our mission.

All ORP staff will share a commitment to this Work and Safety Revolution. Your personal commitment to the following policy is an expectation of your employment in ORP.

Our Policy:

ORP demands high productivity, enthusiasm and commitment to our mission, including outstanding ESH&Q performance and accountability of workers, our contractors and our projects. All River Protection Project (RPP) staff is accountable to achieve their mission in an accelerated manner and in achieving outstanding ESH&Q performance. ISMS and VPP will be our tools to make this happen, consistent with the U.S. Department of Energy policies on ISMS, DOE P 450.4, P 450.5 and P 450.6.

The fundamental premise of Integrated Safety Management (ISM) is that all accidents and incidents are preventable through close attention to project design and hazard control, and with substantial competent worker accountability and involvement in teams that plan work, select appropriate safety standards, and implement necessary controls. Years of experience have demonstrated that an investment in prevention brings not only a healthier workplace and a cleaner environment, but also cost-savings and project efficiencies and acceleration as problems are addressed before they become costly delays, incidents or accidents.

The RPP Management Team supports a work environment that allows free and open expression of safety concerns and where RPP staff and workers fear no reprisals or retaliation. RPP staff and workers are our most important resource for identifying hazards, implementing controls, and correcting potentially unsafe work practices. It is not just our workers' right to raise safety issues for resolution, but a requirement of our employment in ORP.

ORP is committed to institutionalizing, implementing, and continuously improving ISM, which will result in greatly improved ESH&Q performance. We will systematically integrate ESH&Q into the management and work practices at all levels, and reduce burdensome bureaucracy to accomplish the accelerated RPP mission while protecting the public, the worker, and the environment.

Richard T. French, 10/1/99

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